

# Montana Democratic Women's Legislative Caucus

## Membership 2009

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Carol Juneau  
Christine Kaufmann  
Lynda Moss  
Trudi Schmidt  
Carolyn Squires  
Sharon Stewart-Peregoy  
Carol Williams

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Carlie Boland  
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Frosty Calf Boss Ribs  
Margie Campbell  
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Robyn Driscoll  
Julie French  
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Betsy Hands  
Teresa Henry  
Cynthia Hiner  
Deb Kottel  
Margie MacDonald  
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### Co-Chairs 2009

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Rep. Diane Sands

### Caucus Staff

Terry Kendrick

### Legislative Intern

Lori Haverty-Ramesz

EXHIBIT 2

DATE 3/20/09

HB 360

House Appropriations Committee  
March 20, 2009

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. On behalf of the thirty-one members of the Montana Democratic Women's Legislative Caucus, I urge your support of HB 360.

As Montanans we know too well that people in our state work long hard hours for not very much money. Many working parents cannot afford to make ends meet. In fact, according to the U.S. Census, 22% of all Montana families with children under the age of 5 live at or below the poverty level. A Montana Earned Income Tax Credit would act as a crucial wage supplement for these families.

Low- and moderate-income families pay a higher share of their income on local and state taxes than do upper-income families and Montana's state income tax schedule taxes workers at a lower annual income than any other state in the nation. A state Earned Income Tax Credit can help offset the impact of that unfair tax burden.

With a Do Pass vote on HB 360, this committee can do its part to help strengthen Montana's working families.

Sincerely,

Representative Julie French